

the procedures and standards that were passed by Congress in 1997 versus the solicitation for offer being used by GSA today for the Department of Transportation building.

I am afraid that under the current system, GSA is working with vague guidelines from Congress, very vague guidelines. In fact, their language, as I noted earlier, was "\$55 million plus escalations." That is not a crack in the door. That is a wide-open door, big enough to drive a truck through. I think they are using these vague guidelines, and these guidelines allow them to be free to set their own standards, potentially allowing them to commit to a building of unjustifiable expense.

I believe this Congress has a responsibility to our constituents to oversee and ensure all Government leases and all Government expenditures across the board, and that they are awarded to provide the Government the best quality. If we refuse to look at this, I believe we will have failed the taxpayers who will be paying for this bill. We will be potentially burdening them with an exorbitant price tag for simple office space beyond reason and justification.

I believe if we allow GSA to proceed with their current plans, we will not have followed through on our requirements of oversight to ensure that these moneys for lease space are properly approved. We want good space for the employees at the Department of Transportation. I hear they are happy where they are. They are not asking to go to a new building or have a new building. We need to be sure that we give them a new 15-year lease, wherever it is, and that it is comparable in price. We ought not to spend a whole bunch of money to get a fancy new building somewhere at much greater expense than what they have if they are happy where they are. This is not a building that is old; it is about 30 years old. We need to look at that. I will be writing the chairman. I think we need to talk more about that.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate immediately proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination on today's Executive Calendar: No. 659, John E. McLaughlin, of Pennsylvania, to be Deputy Director of Central Intelligence.

I further ask unanimous consent the nomination be confirmed, the motion to consider be laid upon the table, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then return to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nomination considered and confirmed is as follows:

#### CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

John E. McLaughlin, of Pennsylvania, to be Deputy Director of Central Intelligence.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

#### ORDER FOR STAR PRINT

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that S. Res. 376, previously agreed to, be modified and star printed with the changes that are at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ORDER FOR STAR PRINT

Mr. SESSIONS. I further ask unanimous consent that the report to accompany S. 2580 be star printed with the changes that are at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### REAUTHORIZING GRANTS UNDER THE WATER RESOURCES RESEARCH ACT OF 1984

Mr. SESSIONS. I ask unanimous consent that the Environment and Public Works Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4132, and the Senate then proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4132) to reauthorize grants for water resources research and technology institutes established under the Water Resources Research Act of 1984.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read the third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 4132) was read the third time and passed.

#### RELEASE OF MR. EDMOND POPE

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 404, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 404) calling for the immediate release of Mr. Edmond Pope from prison in the Russian Fed-

eration for humanitarian reasons, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. SESSIONS. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 404) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

#### RECOGNIZING AND ADMITTING ISRAEL'S MAGEN DAVID ADOM SOCIETY

Mr. SESSIONS. I ask unanimous consent the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 863, S. Res. 343.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

A resolution (S. Res. 343) expressing the sense of the Senate that the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement should recognize and admit to full membership Israel's Magen David Adom Society, with its emblem, the Red Shield of David.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SESSIONS. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to this resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 343) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

#### S. RES. 343

Whereas Israel's Magen David Adom Society has since 1930 provided emergency relief to people in many countries in times of need, pain, and suffering, regardless of nationality or religious affiliation;

Whereas in the past year alone, the Magen David Adom Society has provided invaluable humanitarian services in Kosovo, Indonesia, Ethiopia, and Eritrea, as well as Greece and Turkey in the wake of the earthquakes that devastated these countries;

Whereas the American Red Cross has recognized the superb and invaluable work done by the Magen David Adom Society and considers the exclusion of the Magen David Adom Society from the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement "an injustice of the highest order";

Whereas the American Red Cross has repeatedly urged that the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement recognize the Magen David Adom Society as a full member, with its emblem;

Whereas the Magen David Adom Society utilizes the Red Shield of David as its emblem, in similar fashion to the utilization of the Red Cross and Red Crescent by other national societies;